

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

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Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

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## Submitter Information

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## General Comment

Runoff from agriculture and other nonpoint sources is a growing threat to our nation's lakes and waterways. Pollution in the Chesapeake Bay is a prime example of the need for action to implement an enforceable regional plan. For more than 25 years, scientists have documented the damaging levels of pollution that drain into Bay rivers and streams, leaving many waters unfit for swimming or fishing and depleting once abundant shellfish populations. Voluntary efforts to reduce nutrient pollution have failed to solve the problem.

The draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is a strong step in the right direction. It sets clear pollution limits, deadlines and consequences for failure that would ensure that the job gets done.

If done well, this TMDL may become an example for nutrient control in other regions in the United States, such as the Great Lakes. EPA should ensure the TMDL for the Chesapeake Bay leads the way to reduce nonpoint source pollution in other watersheds across the country.

I urge you to finalize a strong, accountable final TMDL, and to continue working with the states to ensure that their plans will deliver much-needed results.